

4. MURENA — ?

FORM.—Snout rather compressed before the eyes, not very long, and slightly obtuse. Upper jaw a very little in advance of the lower. The gape extends behind the eyes, but the posterior portion is not equal to the anterior. The teeth, tubular orifices, and pores, are very much the same as in the species last noticed. Dorsal very distinct, commencing in advance of the branchial orifice. Anal not so distinct as the dorsal.

Length 5 inc. 6 lin.

COLOUR.—Brown, but with some lighter specks and mottlings, more particularly on the lower jaw and on the fins.

Taken by Mr. Darwin at Tahiti. Probably a new species, but, as in the last case, the specimen is young and not easily determinable.

LOPHOBRANCHII.

FAMILY.—SYNGNATHIDÆ.

1. SYNGNATHUS ACICULARIS. Jen.

PLATE XXVII. fig. 3.

S. flavo-brunneus: corpore gracillimo, compresso, heptagono; caudâ quadrangulâ: vertice plano; cristâ occipitali parum conspicuâ; rostro longo, compresso, verticaliter capite angustiore, margine superiore acuto prope recto: pinnâ dorsali totâ multum ante medium longitudinis sitâ; pinnis pectoralibus parvis, anali minutissimâ, caudali distinctâ.

LONG. unc. 5. lin. 10.

FORM.—Very similar to the *S. Acus*, but the body rather more compressed. The angles are the same, and the middle lateral ridges of the trunk rise upwards in a similar manner to terminate behind the dorsal fin. There are about seventy transverse shields or plates in the whole length, eighteen of which lie between the gills and the vent. Head much compressed about the gills, contained with the snout about eight and a half times in the entire length. Crown nearly flat, with very little of an occipital ridge; profile falling obliquely, but not much out of a straight line; between the eyes a slight hollow. Snout elongated, a trifle more than half the entire length of the head, compressed, the upper edge sharp and nearly horizontal in front of the nostrils, vertically much narrower than the head.

The dorsal commences at one-third of the entire length, and occupies a space about one-tenth of the same, terminating before the middle: the number of rays is about forty or more. Vent about underneath the seventh dorsal ray. Anal extremely minute, of only one or two rays. Pectorals very small. Caudal distinct, much as in *S. Acus*.

COLOUR.—(In spirits.) Of a nearly uniform yellowish brown, paler underneath.

Habitat, Valparaiso.

This species, taken by Mr. Darwin at Valparaiso, would seem to represent in that quarter of the globe the *S. Acus* of the European seas, which, on the whole, it much resembles, though there are several slight differences on a close comparison. It is a female specimen, being without the abdominal pouch, and is probably not full-sized. The dorsal fin being a little injured, and the rays very delicate as well as close-set, it is hardly possible to tell the exact number. The anal exists, but it is so extremely minute that it might easily be overlooked.

2. SYNGNATHUS CONSPICILLATUS. Jen.

PLATE XXVII. fig. 4.

S. griseus, fasciis transversis fuscis; genis albicantibus, vittis duâbus angustis longitudinalibus nigro-fuscis; corpore crassiore, subcylindrico, hexagono; caudâ quadrangulâ: vertice elevato; cristis occipitali et nuchali distinctis; oculis magnis pro-